

REMARKS

The rejections of Claims 9 and 11 as being anticipated by Yamada et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and of Claims 10 and 12 as being unpatentable over Imada et al., under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) are traversed, but, in any event, are deemed moot with the concurrent filing herewith of a verified translation of Applicant's priority document. Reconsideration is requested on grounds that Applicants have now perfected their claim to an effective filing date of July 13, 2001, which is earlier than the effective filing date of the Imada et al., patent.

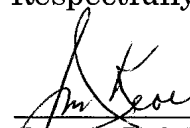
Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056207.51363C1).

Respectfully Submitted,

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